

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 129

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Paul Ellsworth Spray of Oak Ridge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Paul Ellsworth Spray of Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Spray was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Oak Ridge, Dr. Paul Spray moved to the community in 1950, when he started his medical practice as one of the first orthopedic surgeons in East Tennessee, spending one day a week in Crossville, Rockwood, and Harriman; and

WHEREAS, after forty-five years of providing quality medical care to his patients, Dr. Spray retired in 1995, but he continued to treat patients at the local interfaith clinic until 1998; and

WHEREAS, respected and admired by his peers, Dr. Paul Spray was committed to providing orthopedic care around the world and was an early member of Orthopedic Overseas, a group that provided volunteer services in orthopedic care in disadvantaged countries; and

WHEREAS, between 1959 and 1998, he made twenty-three monthlong trips to developing nations as part of CARE/MEDICO, an international humanitarian organization; he became a member of the CARE board of directors and served as vice president; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Dr. Spray received the Mayo Clinic Alumni Association Humanitarian Award in recognition of his decades of compassionate medical care, including teaching orthopedic procedures and lecturing in developing nations, and dedication to providing medical care to impoverished patients in the Appalachian region of East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a vital part of his community, Dr. Spray participated in numerous community organizations, including the Oak Ridge Playhouse, ORICL, and the Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and devout member of the United Church of Oak Ridge and a founding member of the West Knoxville Friends Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Spray was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his beloved wife, Louise Conover Spray, for more than seventy years before her passing; he was the proud father of Dr. David (Eliana) Spray, Dr. Thomas (Diane) Spray, and Lynn (Thomas) Branham and the loving grandfather of five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Paul Spray leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Paul Ellsworth Spray, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Spray.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.